

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 June 2005 (30.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/060283 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04Q 7/22,**
H04L 1/00

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/SE2003/002038

(22) International Filing Date:
19 December 2003 (19.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR,
CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD,
GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN,
MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

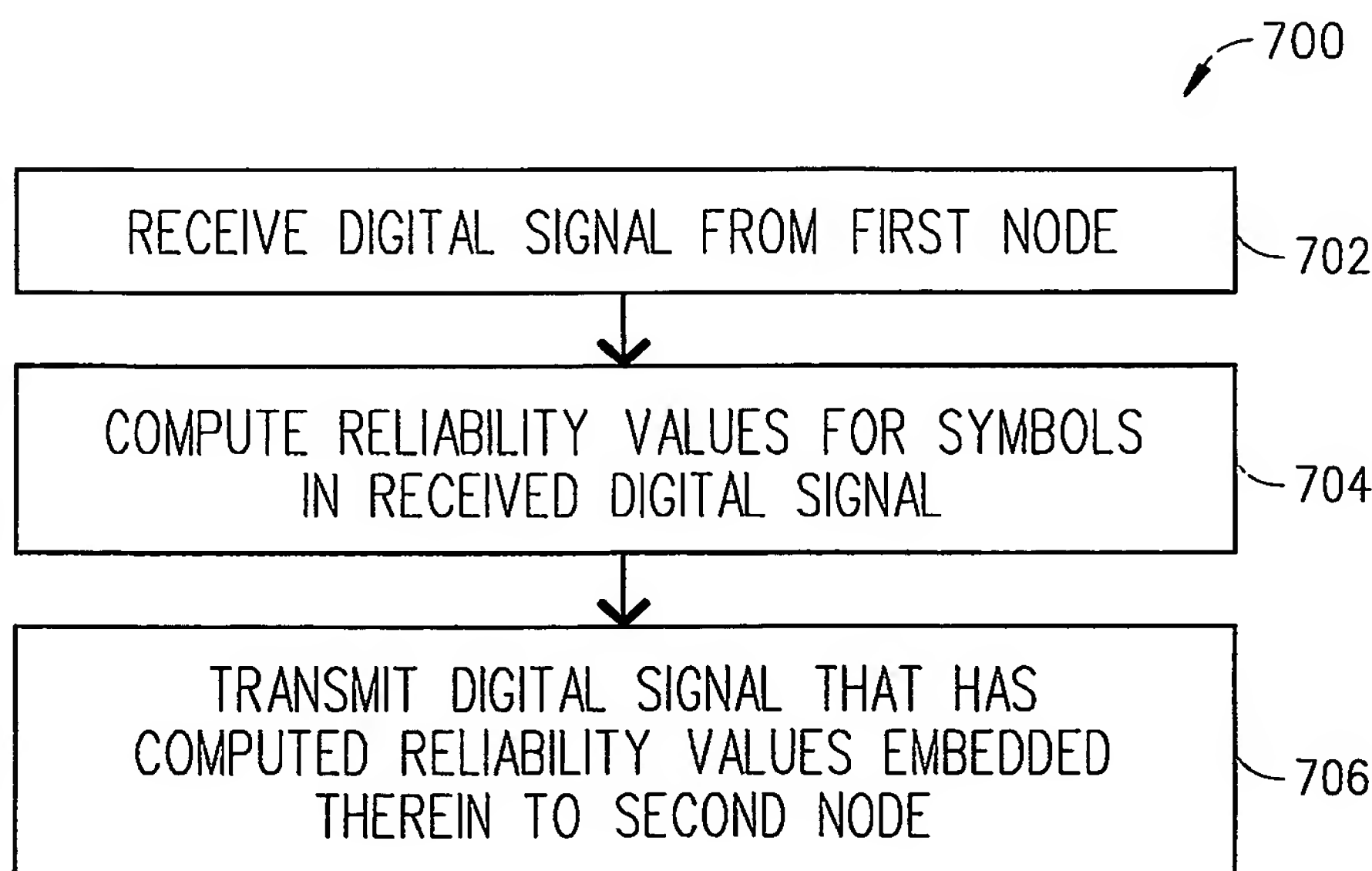
— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: RELAY STATION AND METHOD FOR ENABLING RELIABLE DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TWO NODES IN A WIRELESS RELAY BASED NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A relay station (606, 806a, 806b, 906a, 906b, 1006 and 1106) and a method (700) are described herein that enables reliable digital communications to occur between two nodes in a wireless relay based network (600, 800, 900, 1000 and 1100). The wireless relay based network includes a first node (602, 802, 902, 1002 and 1102) that transmits information in coded/modulated digital communications to a second node (604, 804, 904, 1004 and 1104) via one or more relay stations. And, each relay station is capable of: (1) receiving (702) a coded/modulated digital communication from the first node; (2) computing (704) a plurality of reliability values for a plurality of information symbols

or coded symbols in the received coded/modulated digital communication; and (3) transmitting (706) a coded/modulated digital communication that has the computed reliability values embedded therein to the second node.